

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 10, 13-19 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Sax in the January 16, 2004 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The foregoing amendments amend claim 1 for better clarity, at Applicants' preference, and amend claims 7 and 13 to better relate to claim 1 and/or for better clarity. The changes to the dependent claims are for consistency with the amended independent claims and/or for better clarity.

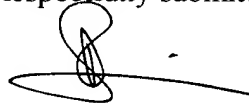
The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Sklut et al. (U.S. Patent 5,790,119) (Sklut). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Based on the arguments set forth in the January 6, 2004 Amendment, agreement that the rejection would be withdrawn was reached with the Examiner during the January 5, 2004 personal interview and the January 16, 2004 telephone interview. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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